



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 14, 2002

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USDA STATE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR **GRAFTON WATER DISTRICT**

Grafton, MA – It was announced in front of the Grafton Water District Building on Millbury Street today, that the town has received a USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant totaling \$1,400,000. Rural Development State Director David Tuttle said, “the grant and loan combination will be used to improve the drinking water quality of the town’s East Street station and bring levels of iron and manganese back to recommended levels.”

The Grafton Water District’s supply is made up of four groundwater sources, two of which are located on East Street. Of the four sources, the two East Street wells currently have higher than recommended levels of iron and manganese. The federal funds provided through the Rural Utilities Service and presented on behalf of President George W. Bush and Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman, will be used to construct a filtration plant that will filter out iron and remove manganese from the two wells.

State Director Tuttle was joined by Massachusetts State Representative George Peterson Jr. in presenting the \$300,000 grant and \$1,100,000 low-interest loan to the Grafton Water District Board of Commissioners Chairman, John H. Hall and the District’s Systems Manager, Matthew E. Pearson.

“This project was brought about as a direct response to the needs of our district’s users,” said Board of Commissioners Chairman, John H. Hall. “We thank the USDA for their help in funding this important water treatment project.”

“The USDA listened and responded to the needs of our community,” said State Representative George Peterson (R-Grafton). “We are grateful for their assistance and commitment to restoring high water quality to the Commonwealth.”

The objective of the USDA Rural Development’s Water and Waste Program is to develop public water and waste water systems in order to reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources and for the improvement and planning of solid waste facilities.

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